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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/GB00/00248 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 28 January 2000 (28.01.00)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 9901927.5 28 January 1999 (28.01.99) GB  <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> PLANT BIOSCIENCE LIMITED [GB/GB]; Norwich Research Park, Colney Lane, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7UH (GB).  <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> DEAN, Caroline [GB/GB]; 19 Waverley Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 6SG (GB). GENDALL, Anthony [GB/GB]; 167 Unthank Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 2PG (GB).  <b>(74) Agents:</b> WALTON, Seán, M. et al.; Mewburn Ellis, York House, 23 Kingsway, London WC2B 6HP (GB).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> METHODS AND MEANS FOR MODIFICATION OF PLANT CHARACTERISTICS USING THE VERNALIZATION GENE VRN2		
<b>(57) Abstract</b>  Sub 81 An isolated nucleic acid obtainable from the VRN2 locus of a plant, which nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide which is capable or affecting one or more physical characteristics of a plant into which the nucleic acid is introduced, the physical characteristics being selected from vernalization response, flowering time, leaf size and/or shape or shade avoidance response; alleles, fragment and derivatives thereof; polypeptides encoded by such nucleic acids; antibodies to such polypeptides.		